

We also are creating, from the pattern given to us by the 9/11 Commission, a very strong Intelligence Committee. And in the appropriations process, we have a subcommittee there. I spoke last night to Lee Hamilton, one of the cochairs. We have kept them advised as to everything we have done, and they are on board. They think what we are doing is totally in keeping with their recommendations. We haven't followed everything they wanted, but we have kept them advised along the way. We have a very good product.

Again, Senator MCCONNELL and I extend both to the majority leader and Senator DASCHLE our thanks for keeping your eyes on the prize and having us go forward, as difficult as it has been.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 9:40 a.m., with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee, and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

HELEN DEWAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will speak within morning business.

As we move to adjourn at the end of this week, I fear we will lose sight of an important event which will take place at the end of the 108th Congress. Because at the end of this session, the Senate press corps will lose one of the most distinguished and accomplished members of that body.

After nearly 25 years of hallway stakeouts, quorum calls, late-night votes, pressing deadlines, takeout food, the Washington Post Senate reporter Helen Dewar plans to leave her position when we adjourn sine die. Before that happens, I believe it is appropriate to recognize Helen's outstanding career during which she has faithfully informed Post readers on the oftentimes complex and intricate actions of this body.

Since 1980, Helen Dewar has covered every major Senate debate—from budget battles and judicial nominations to the sweeping intelligence reforms we are making now. But Helen's special talent has been to bring clarity to the day-to-day operations of this body, the Senate. Helen Dewar is known for being tough, persistent, inquisitive, and thorough. Helen's direct style of asking questions gets right to the heart of matter. She never asks an important question just once; she asks

until she is satisfied she has gotten as much as she can.

Born and raised in Stockton, CA, Helen Dewar earned her undergraduate degree in political science from Stanford University. Her first stint at the Post was filling paste pots for the then-Women's page. She left after one week for a reporting job on the Northern Virginia Sun. She returned to the Post in 1961 as a reporter and has worked steadily in that role since.

When Helen was getting started in the newspaper business, women had to struggle to get entry level jobs. It was rare for women to win a job covering politics at the Post back in the 1970s. Helen had to push hard to move from the ranks of the Metro staff to covering Jimmy Carter's 1976 campaign, and then to winning the coveted assignment covering the Senate.

Helen began covering the Senate in late 1979. When Ronald Reagan swept to victory over President Carter in 1980, the Republicans claimed control of the Senate, and Helen was poised to cover a great story. As the Senate reporter who was also responsible for following the budget, Helen wrote extensively about the Reagan revolution. She covered the battle over President Reagan's 1981 tax cut and the Cold War military buildup.

Helen has covered virtually every major story on the Hill during the past 20 years, from Reaganomics to Iran-contra, ethics investigations, the fight over the Gulf War resolution, to the impeachment of President Clinton. During election season, she covered Senate election battles and how they might impact national policy. Helen has reported on the career of seven Senate majority leaders, including ROBERT BYRD, HOWARD BAKER, BOB DOLE, GEORGE MITCHELL, TOM DASCHLE, TRENT LOTT, and myself. The hallmark of Helen's reporting has been fairness, integrity, clarity and scrupulous attention to detail.

Helen is regarded by her colleagues as the dean of the Congressional Press Corps. She intently focuses on detail and comes from the school of journalism where the story is more important than the journalist. The hallways of the Capitol and Tuesday stakeouts will not seem the same without her. I offer my warmest wishes to Helen Dewar in all her future endeavors. Her colleagues here on the Hill and in the Post newsroom will miss her. But those who will feel her departure most acutely will be her thousands of readers who, for more than two decades, have looked to her to provide a succinct, unvarnished account of the activities of their elected officials.

I yield the floor

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I join the majority leader in applauding the remarkable career of Helen Dewar, the dean of the Senate press corps.

As Senator FRIST mentioned, Helen will be leaving her beat as the Washington Post's Senate correspondent at the end of this Congress. If I can bor-

row a phrase, not having Helen Dewar to kick us around anymore will be a loss for the Senate and for America.

Helen Dewar is a dogged reporter and graceful writer, and those gifts are rare enough, but she has possessed an even rarer gift. From the day she started the Senate beat, she has always known that you cannot understand the Senate just by walking these marbled Halls and making phone calls from a desk in the Capitol; you have to go out into America and talk to the people.

I recently came across what may be the first story Helen ever wrote from South Dakota. The date was July 2, 1980. It was a story about the centennial celebration of Arlington, SD, population 953. The headline read: "Celebrating 100 Years Against the Odds."

Helen described the town's parade as 2 miles long, "considerably longer than the town itself." She recounted people's complaints—farm prices were too low and gas prices were too high.

Mostly, she captured the incredible pride people in Arlington felt for their community. "The pride was so intense," she wrote, "that a visitor from Washington, offering Arlingtonians a chance to sound off about government and politics, was told to forget all about that unpleasantness, grab a plate of barbeque and simply enjoy Arlington."

Helen Dewar is a Washington institution, but she has never worn beltway blinders. For nearly 25 years, she has worked long, hard hours in the Senate, and when the Senate recesses, she has crisscrossed America to get the story—to explain to reporters what their Government is doing and why.

She is a reporter's reporter—tough, persistent, perceptive, and always fair. She has earned the respect of her colleagues, her sources, and her readers.

She has served American democracy well by helping to hold our Government accountable and to give the people the information and knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their Government.

After nearly 25 years covering this body, Helen is part of the institutional memory of the Senate. More than that, she is part of the heart of this place. It is a privilege and a pleasure to work with Helen, and I know we all wish her well in all her future endeavors.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Who seeks time?

The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

IRAQ

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, for the past several days, I have followed the remarks of the senior Senator from Massachusetts relative to Iraq and the war on terrorism. He likes to talk more about yesterday and not as much about tomorrow. He finds fault in everything that the President and his team have done to protect our lives, our liberties, and our way of life. He interprets facts to fit his dismal view of Iraq.